

Digital Collection Development in Academic Libraries: An Overview

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Abstract

Digital Collection is a most important part of the Digital Library. The Digital Collections of information include various resources such as electronic journals, books, full text, CD-ROM, databases etc. The main objectives of the paper is to know different digital collections and importance in Academic Libraries. The study is based on secondary data includes books, journals and published documents etc. The paper is an analytical and descriptive one.

Keywords: Digital Collection, Academic Library

1. Introduction

The 21st century is the era of the Information and Technology. Academic libraries are facing new challenges of the rapid growth of electronic publications. The information's are spreading at an extraordinary rate in the variety of formats through the technological development especially through the digital media. Library has known as creators and publishers of scholarly information. Digital libraries have information objects in various media, such as text, audio, video and image, information is increasing being produced in digital format and provides information access services to different users. The digital libraries use a variety of institution and library in the field of education, research, business etc. Internet has provided the link to instant information services in the world. Digital resources in Indian language have started to grow with the use of GIST. But language resources using GIST can be accessed using a GIST card or terminal or compatible software. But as we want digital resources in Indian language to be accessed from any part of the world we will have

to use UNICODE compatible software. (Changing library scenario in digital era, 2008.p-145)

The United States had begun the development of digital libraries with the help of Government support in 1990. A few central library of Assam have already in the process of shifting themselves in to the digital library environment. Digital library have great advantage in the accessing quality information through the digital resources.

- i. Information can become available to anyone anywhere in the world at
- ii. Minimal cost.
- iii. Effective searching can be possible to retrieve a particular information.
- iv. Multiple accesses to electronic resources are possible.
- v. It grows a distributed learning environment by which all the users can be benefitted at a time.
- vi. Large volume of data can be stored in the digital resources and made
- vii. Accessible to users.
- viii. The library automation are essential to create and manage digital resources.



ix. Networking facilities like LAN and WAN must be available in the

x. Library

Digitization is essential for both accessibility and preservation. Digital Collection is a most important part of the digital library.

2. Objectives of the Study

1) To know different digital collections in Academic Libraries.

2) To find out the importance of Digital Collections in Academic Libraries.

3. Methodology

The study is based on secondary data includes books, journals and published documents etc. The paper is an analytical and descriptive one.

A quality of education is impossible without a quality library with all modern information and technologies. It is not possible to provide quality service with skilled faculty without a quality library.

3.1 Digital Collections in Academic Libraries

Traditional libraries are still handling mostly printed materials that are expensive. Information users are not satisfied with printed materials. They want to supplement the printed information with more dynamic electronic documents. Users demand is increasing for information delivery in digital form in recent times. Nowadays books, journals, conference proceedings, magazines, etc. are published in electronic Media. The digital collections of information include various resources such as electronic journals, books, full text, CD-ROM, databases, etc. The number of electronic

publishing is increasing day by day. It is made available online on Internet and on other Microsoft networks. The benefits of information collection in digital form for preservation, access, and managing large quantities of information have been recognized by both library professionals as well users.

3.2 CD-ROM Publications

CD-ROMs are most powerful and economical tool for storing and retrieving of large amount of information in academic libraries. It can store full motion video, animation, graphic, text and high resolution audio. It also saves high cost building and shelf storage space. It provides ready reference service with instantaneously to users of Academic libraries.

3.2.1 Advantages

- a. CD-ROM has increased the capacity and quality at the Academic Libraries.
- b. Users can search their required information with successfully than books and journals.
- c. It has high data integrity and more durability.
- d. It provides high storage capacity.
- e. It is possible to keep a large stack of back volumes of journals, encyclopedias.
- f. CD-ROM union catalogue is an effective medium for resource sharing among Libraries.

3.3 Online Databases

Digital library collection contains mostly on-line databases that can be accessed directly. The electronic publication media of dissemination, OPACs, electronic journals and news letters are such databases. The advantages are-

- a. It can be accessed through Internet facilities.
- b. It can be instant to up-to-date information.
- c. It can be reduce space problem.

3.4 Electronic Journals and Newsletters

Electronic journals form a important part of a digital library collection. These are available on various Internet service providers. We can browse or retrieve all the issues of the available electronic journals and news letters through the networks. It can provide the required information in a few seconds and can be downloaded.

3.5 Multimedia Packages

Multimedia has strong tool for retrieving information and present process of collection development in academic libraries. It has playing a important role in field of education and training. Multimedia is an integration of text, graphics, video, audio and animation on a single medium. Users can develop new skills through multimedia.

3.6 E-Mail and Fax Medias

E-Mail and Fax Media are electronic communication systems. These are the supporters of transmitting images like photos, maps, drawings and printed paper on paper reproduction at the remote receiver. It is very fast to access the information.

3.7 Tele-text and Video Text

The updating work of encyclopedia works, dictionaries, financial information, etc. can be done by videotext. It also possible for doing SDI, bibliographic and document delivery services. We can provide current information with vast subjects to the user through tele text. It is also easy accessible process and less expensive for getting information.

3.8 Collection through Internet

Internet is a worldwide network of computer systems. It can provide access a large amount of valid information in the enlistment of Academic Libraries. The Internet Network Information Centre is one of the bodies which are concerned with the Internet conventions. Online services and Internet software packages are available in Internet servers. ERNET, NICNET, SIRNET, INFLIBNET, are some of the Internet facilities available in India.

3.8.1 Advantage in brief

- 1) Internet can be efficient and convenient in the context of desktop automation.
- 2) Internet does not cost much.
- 3) Internet can shrink social as well as geographical distance.
- 4) Internet can support and sustain the academic interests of the research community.
- 5) Internet is purely paperless tool in the communication chain.

3.9. Collection through Resource Sharing

Library is not possible to effort all the resources individually. Newly improved technique of library network communications and Internet can avail for the sharing of expensive resources to provide information at low cost. It also develops the quality of collection in Academic Libraries. Resource sharing networks are available at local, regional, national or international levels. In local, information is stored in the form of Union Catalogue. In regional, Information is stored and services are provided on broad subject area.

National Union Catalogue of documents is prepared and services are provided to users.

3.10 Collection through Library Consortia

Consortia means a group of libraries comes together with common interests to form a consortium. The Library consortium has been providing a largest amount of electronic quality resources at affordable cost to Academic Libraries. The researchers can be able to fulfill their expectations through the web based electronic resources.

❖ **INDEST:** (Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology). Consortium is popular system of consortia on digital resources. It was set up in 2003, head quarter at IIT Delhi, by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the recommendations of an expert group appointed by the ministry. The consortium subscribes to full-text electronic resources and bibliographic databases for 38 leading engineering and technological institution in India funded by MHRD.

❖ **Vidyanidhi:** Vidyanidhi is Digital Library Project to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses. It is most significant as a national repository and a consortium for e-thesis through participation and partnership with Universities, academic institutions etc.

❖ **UGC-INFONET Consortium:** The UGC-Infonet is a major initiative of University Grant Commission to make use of benefits of ICT to all the Universities and Colleges across the Country. The UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium by INFLIBNET has initiated the programme to provide electronic access to over the Internet to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the

University sector in India. The INFLIBNET also create 'Shodhganga' an e-theses repository to preserve as well as open access the Ph.D. theses for researchers. As information received, already '47' Universities signed MoU with INFLIBNET and started contributing to this process. UGC also providing funds to universities for digitization process under 'Shodhganga'.

4. Conclusion

Modern technology has brought a revolution in the library and information activities. Digital Library collection has given opportunities to academic user community by developing electronic information access facilities. Electronic collections are more flexible and dynamic. Nowadays Librarians have responsibilities to equipped themselves with new technologies. It has also some problems in Digital collection management. These include infrastructure, acceptability, access restrictions, readability, standardization, authentication, preservation, copyright, user interface, etc. A library is vital to proper exploitation of our intellectual resources, and the library is essential in maintenance of free access to idea and the functioning of ultra minded mind. The development of successful multimedia systems for library requires a much wider range of skills than that of conventional systems. Most of the Academic Libraries do not have adequate information resources to support the academic and research programmed of their institutions because of lack of planned and systematic approach to development of resources. The importance of digital libraries have been recognized by nations of the world.

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